

Identifying a legal moose in antler restricted hunts

In many units regulations restrict the harvest of bull moose to a specific antler size or configuration. The accompanying illustrations provide general assistance to hunters in field identification of moose antler size and configuration. It must be emphasized, however, that moose antlers vary considerably, and each hunter is responsible for determining that a moose is legal before attempting to take it.

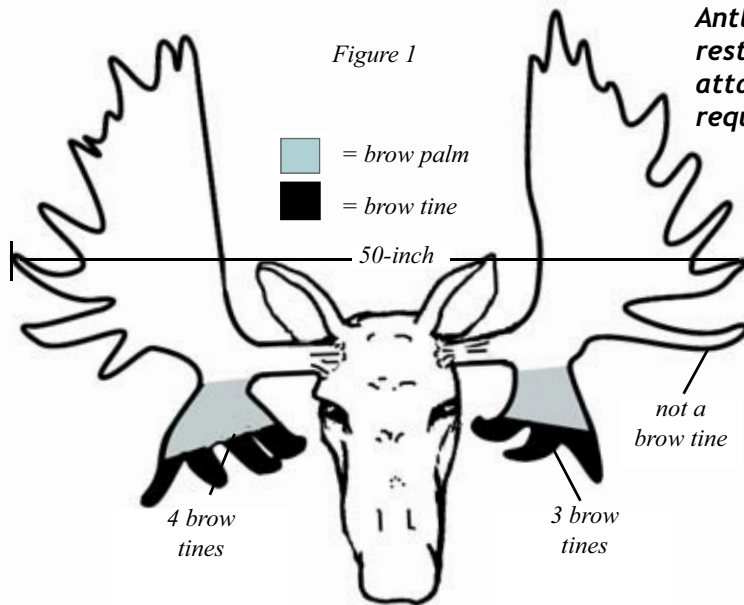
Legal bull moose in areas with a 50-inch antler OR number of brow tines restriction:

Antler restrictions are defined by both an antler spread and a brow tine restriction. The brow tine portion of the 50-inch antler restriction is intended to help verify a legal moose if the hunter is uncertain about antler spread. If uncertain about the antler spread, count brow tines. If uncertain about the number of brow tines, don't shoot!

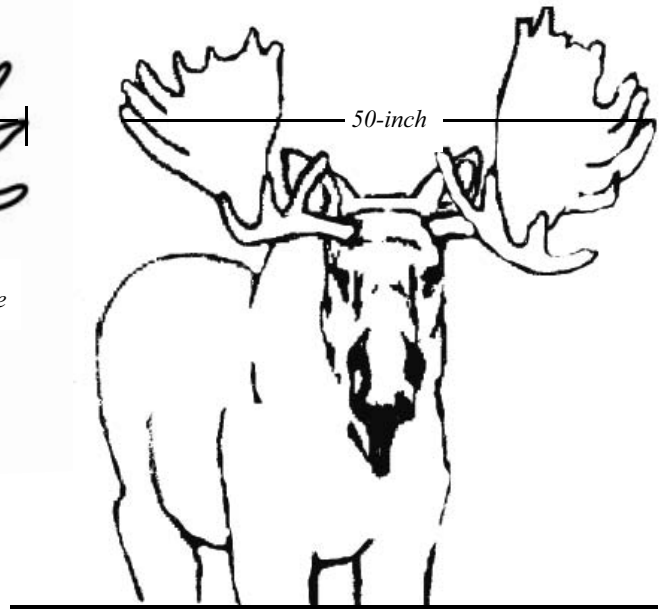
50-inch antlers means the antlers of a bull moose with a spread of 50 inches or more measured in a straight line perpendicular to the center line of the skull. (See figure 1 below.)

In some areas of the state, bulls with antlers less than 50 inches wide are legal if they have at least 3 brow tines on EITHER side. In other areas, bulls with antlers less than 50 inches wide must have at least 4 brow tines on EITHER side to be legal. Be sure to check the regulations for the brow tine minimum requirement in the area you are hunting.

However, if the antlers are 50 or more inches wide, it doesn't matter how many brow tines are present, the moose is legal. Likewise, if the moose has the required number of brow tines, it is legal regardless of the antler spread.

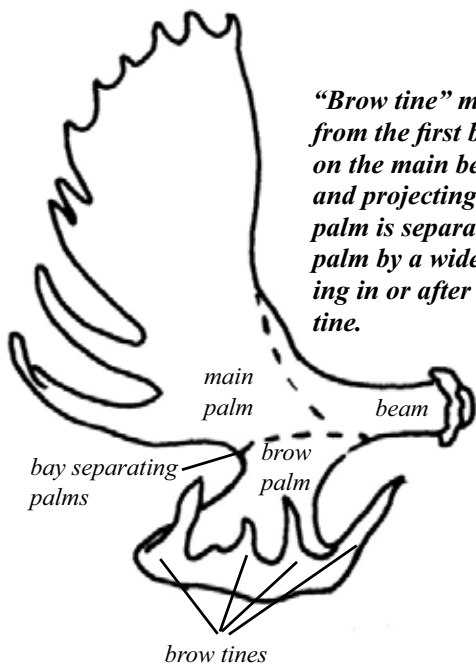


Antlers must be salvaged where there are antler restrictions; such antlers must remain naturally attached to the unbroken or uncut skull plate if the required number of brow tines aren't present.



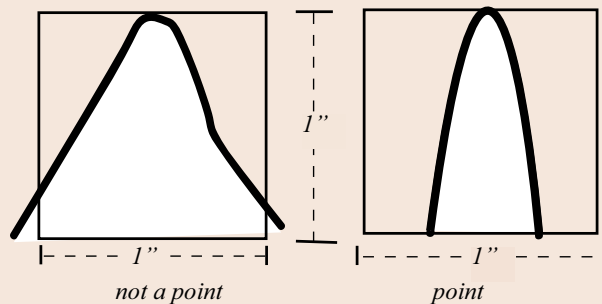
Natalie Palmer, then 18, of Palmer, took this 3 brow-tine moose with a 43" rack while hunting with her father, Dave Palmer, in Unit 16A in September 2001.

To accurately identify and count brow tines, bulls must be viewed from the front; viewing from the side runs a risk of counting main palm points as brow tines. On bulls with substantially less than 50-inch antler spreads, distinguishing legal brow tines can be difficult. Brow tines emerge from the brow palm or from near the base of the antler and typically project forward.



"Brow tine" means a tine emerging from the first branch or brow palm on the main beam of a moose antler and projecting forward; the brow palm is separated from the main palm by a wide bay; a tine originating in or after this bay is not a brow tine.

Identifying a point or tine:



A point or tine is an antler projection at least one inch long, and longer than it is wide, with the width measured one inch or more from the tip.

Legal bull moose in areas with a spike-fork restriction

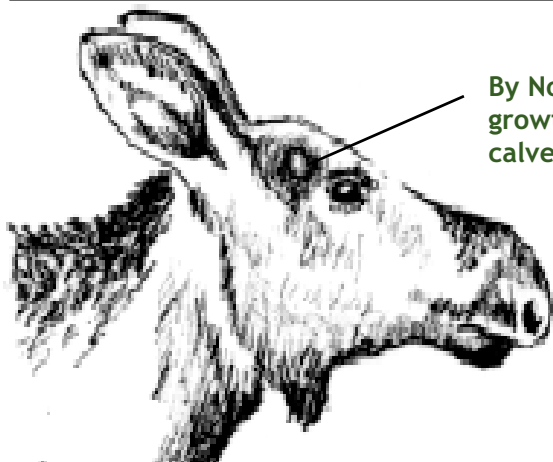
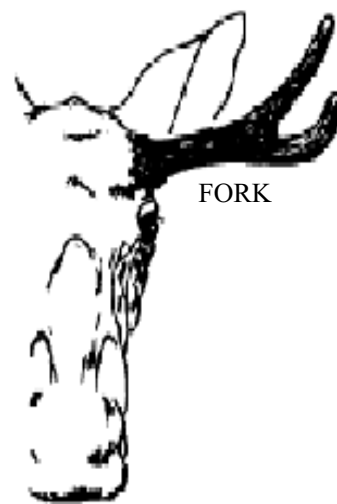
SPIKE



A bull is legal if it has one antler on either side that is a SPIKE (1 point) or a FORK (2 points). The antler on the other side can be any configuration.

Bulls with palmated antlers (paddles) seldom are legal under the "spike or fork" requirement.

FORK



By November, some male calves have a small amount of antler growth (1-2 inches) covered with hair and skin. These are still calves and are not legal in a spike-fork hunt.

To better understand the spike-fork 50-inch antler restriction, check out the video ***'Is This Moose Legal?'*** at your nearest ADF&G office. For some hunts, viewing of this video is required prior to hunting.

Special meat salvage requirements: Edible meat must be salvaged. In addition, moose taken before October 1 in Unit 9B, Unit 17, Unit 18, those portions of Unit 19A within the Holitna/Hoholitna Controlled Use Area, Unit 19B, and Unit 23, the edible meat of the front quarters and hindquarters must remain naturally attached to the bone until the meat has been transported from the field or is processed for human consumption, and in Units 21 and 24 the edible meat of the ribs also must remain naturally attached to the bone. (See *Salvage*, page 18.)